

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

www.greensboro-nc.gov/sustainability

Greensboro, NC

Meeting Date: Monday, January 11, 2010

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: Conference Room, Plaza Level of Melvin Municipal Office Building

AGENDA, Regular Meeting

1. Approval of minutes from meeting of December 14, 2009 (coming soon)
2. Report on energy efficiency initiatives by Duke Energy – Davis Montgomery
3. Progress report on proposed Code of Ethics – Dan Curry and Bob Kollar
4. Reports from sub-committees:
 - ~ Waste Reduction and Recycling, Item 2 (see attachment)
 - ~ Education and Outreach, Items 6 and 8 (see attachment)
5. Progress report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies proposal application to DOE – Sue Schwartz
6. Progress report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation competitive grant application – Dan Curry
7. Discussion concerning implementation of CSC Action Plan: our overall strategy, role of consultants, and timeline for completion of tasks – Bob Powell and Joel Landau (see attachment)
8. E-mails sent to the CSC website this past month – Joel Landau (see below)
 - volunteer for Piedmont Environmental Alliance Earth Day fair?
9. Request for Letter of Support for NCA&T Community Supported Agriculture Grant – Bob Powell (see Communication #4 below from Michael Roberto)
10. Items from Co-chairs – meetings with the Mayor, and with the City Manager
 - presentation to the Kiwanis Club
 - presentation to First Presbyterian
11. Items from Group members – Amory Lovins at Catawba College
 - 6 states to get aid with building retrofits, including NC – Marlene Sanford
12. Items from the Public
13. Items from staff
14. Acknowledgment of absences
15. Adjournment

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CSC:

1)

Joel,

I am following up here on a note from the City Manager's Office about something dealing with a 'Green Star Program'. We don't know anything about it!

Are you aware of such a program? If so, can you provide us some information so we can handle appropriately?

Thanks

Jim Collins, Communications Manager
Public Affairs Department
City of Greensboro
PO Box 3136, Greensboro, NC 27402-3136
www.greensboro-nc.gov

2)

Hello,

I wanted to follow up on the possibility of Greensboro getting involved in the Piedmont Environmental Alliance Earth Day Fair. Please let me know if you have any questions. We would really like Greensboro to be a part of this event and I think we could be flexible with the details of the agreement.

The Earth Day Fair is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th, 10am - 5pm, on the Wake Forest Campus.

Thank you,
Matthew Burczyk
608.358.4911

3)

-----Original Message-----

From: djhoward@uncg.edu [<mailto:djhoward@uncg.edu>]

Sent: Monday, December 28, 2009 3:42 PM

To: Davis, Debby

Subject: [Community Sustainability Council - Website Contact] - some suggestions

Name: devin howard

A brief disclaimer: Many of the points in my comment have been and continue to be addressed seriously by the city, none of this is criticism, I'm just saying that Greensboro could really develop if green, sustainable initiatives become a central goal of the city. I think greensboro is uniquely positioned due to its location at the junction of major transnational ground transportation routes, the presence of multiple universities, and with an expanding airport, and stands to gain enormously from investing in a well articulated, comprehensive environmental sustainability program. This can include: phasing out fuel intensive municipal vehicles (police, water, executive, parks and rec, everything)

with higher mileage vehicles; begin long range planning for rapid mass transit systems, while this may be decades in the future, laying groundwork can be helped merely by discussing possibilities floating ideas, critiquing and refining; phase out all City maintained lighting with high efficiency LED bulbs and begin equipping all public facilities with technologies that reduce energy consumption (like motion sensing lighting or timed thermostats), incorporating smart traffic technologies like high efficiency traffic signals to reduce congestion and improve transit times (which in turn saves consumers time and money and can actually lead to improvements in health by reducing stress); encouraging the use of high efficiency water appliances, low flow shower heads, aerated faucets, dual flush toilets, and drought resistant grasses on yards and golf courses, or by making use of reclaimed water for non-edible crops and irrigation for recreational facilities; aggressive campaigns to increase pedestrian and bicycle transit - which the City has already embarked on; soliciting the establishment in Greensboro of manufacturers of sustainable or alternative energy products; develop a stronger relationship with the area campuses to build a robust research center (this was a key recommendation of the 1999 report); incorporate as much green space in urban areas as possible - roof top gardens, especially on the top decks of parking garages - doing this can also reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality; limiting horizontal development - mixed use vertical development, while maybe not providing the quick money that suburban development offers, will add to the skyline (studies have shown this has important psychological effects and can improve the image of a city), and offers mixed use, variable rent property that attracts people to the city's core, counteracting sprawl with adaptive zoning measures can also proscribe the detrimental effects expansion has on costs of provision and maintenance of basic utilities; the incorporation of solar power into non-vital facilities or merely as a supplementary energy source; many of these suggestions probably seem cosmetic, but simply changing the image of the City can shape how its residents perceive and identify with the socio-cultural environment and positive reinforcement will help popularize green initiatives; some people criticize the 'green' movement as a temporary fad, but all signs point to it being a very lucrative phenomenon and if the city can establish itself as a forward thinking organization that is capable of acting on and making significant gains in a rigorous 'sustainability' program, there is great potential to attract outside investment in a range of industries and businesses, from manufacturing to home building to small yet innovative business owners. And thus my rant comes to a close...although I could suggest a huge number of other possibilities.

4)

Subject: RE: Letters of Support for A&T grant proposal from representatives of the Advisory Committee needed before January 15

Dear Linwood, Tim, Brooks, Karen, Steve, and Karen,

I hope all is well with each of you and that you had a great Christmas with family and friends. I had a little time to recuperate from exhaustion after a blistering semester of teaching, conferences, committee work, and

writing. With about 10 days to go before the start of the spring semester, I'm just now putting together syllabi for courses and finishing up an article. In short, the break was sweet but much too brief.

Nevertheless, folks, the time has come for Terrence to finally submit the grant proposal to USDA before the January 15 deadline. So we need letters of support from each of your representative groups or agencies to follow through with all we discussed over the course of several meetings. These letters don't have to be more than a page, and should basically address (1) how the increase in SAES capacity can further your efforts at developing a more viable local food system and its attributes, i.e. health, diet, entrepreneurship, etc (2) concrete ways that your community group or agency can support the project, and (3) identifying however roughly (especially in terms of numbers) your constituency, membership, etc., and ways people might contribute to the project, i.e., training in agricultural production, setting up demonstration sites.

Steve has already supplied Terrence with two letters from groups he's worked with. Now, we need the same from Linwood, Tim, Mike, Karen, and Brooks. To help out, I've included a very brief abstract of the grant proposal based on information provided to me by Terrence.

The grant, which is titled "**Community Supported Agriculture: Linking Food Production to Wellness, Sustainability and Community Entrepreneurship**," is about 20 pages in length. Basically, the goal of the proposed project is to build the capacity of A&T's School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES) to collaborate with community-based organizations and local government agencies to empower communities in Greensboro and surrounding communities (that means High Point, Mike) to develop a localized sustainable food system aimed at improving food security, health and wellness, as well as the economic vitality and environmental quality of these communities. To this end, the project will identify and describe existing community-based grower groups, develop base line data on dietary patterns, and document elements of the participatory collaborative process as it evolves. The data generated will be used to delineate existing production models, identify best practices, lessons learned and the need for technical assistance in producing food. Following analysis of the data, the project will develop and deliver technical assistance on: (1) producing food, which includes establishing a demonstration site (or sites) in the communities and on the farm of SAES; (2) establishing entrepreneurial units to generate employment and income; and (3) adopting healthy eating habits and healthy lifestyles. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve food security in terms of increased access to food and the adoption of healthy eating habits; improve economic vitality of targeted communities through the generation of employment and income; and improve the capacity of SAES to engage communities through participatory collaboration.

Of course, the proposal says much more. But I hope this abstract will help you to write the letters, which are much needed.

Meanwhile, I will secure a letter from the Mayor's Sustainability Council before the January 15 deadline.

Terrence must have signed, hard copies of these letters as soon as possible. If you have further questions, please contact him at twthomas@ncat.edu or his office phone, 334-7059.

Of course, I'm always available. Call me at home if necessary, 275-3298, or my cell, 207-5074.

This has been a long haul, friends, and many have counted us out. But as I've often been told, better not to leave five minutes before the miracle.

Best wishes to all of you in 2010,

Michael

Dr. Michael Joseph Roberto
Associate Professor of History

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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